

75¢

74

JAN

02199

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

# PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

THIS IS IT! THE  
MIND-SHATTERING  
CONCLUSION TO THE  
DEBRA  
WHITMAN  
SAGA!

FANTASIA!



HALL/MAGDOFF



While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter gained the arachnid's powers... and in effect, became a human spider.

# STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!

BILL MANTLO  
STORY

BOB HALL  
ART

JIM MOONEY  
INKS

DIANA ALBERS  
LETTERS

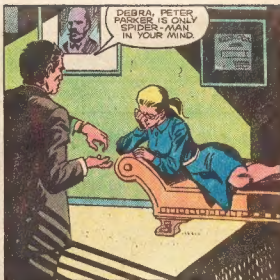
BOB SHAREN  
COLORS

TOM DEFALCO  
EDITOR

JIM SHOOTER  
HIGH MUCKAMUCK



PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN™ Vol. 1, No. 74, January, 1983. (U.S.P.S. 559-250) Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galt, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Vice-President, Publishing, Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10018. Second Class postage paid at New York, NY and at additional mailing offices. Published monthly. Copyright © 1983 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 60¢ per copy in the U.S. and 75¢ in Canada. Subscription rate \$7.20 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, \$8.20. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP. Postmaster: Send address changes to Subscription Dept., Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10018.



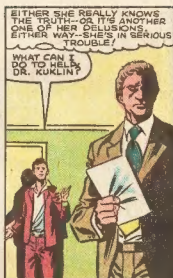




I HEARD, DOC--AND I'M STUNNED!



ESPECIALLY SINCE I MAY HAVE CAUSED DEB'S PROBLEM BY CARELESSLY LETTING HER DISCOVER MY SPIDER-MAN IDENTITY!



EITHER SHE REALLY KNOWS THE TRUTH--OR IT'S ANOTHER ONE OF HER DELUSIONS. EITHER WAY--SHE'S IN SERIOUS TROUBLE!

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP, DR. KUKLIN?



AS I'VE ALREADY MENTIONED, DEBRA NEEDS TO BE SHOCKED OUT OF HER FANTASY STATE--AND BACK INTO REALITY.

I WANT YOU TO DO THE SHOCKING--



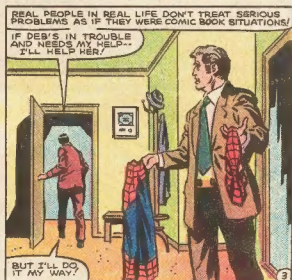
--BY PRETENDING TO BE THE HERO SHE THINKS YOU ARE--AND THUS SHOWING HER THE ABSURDITY OF HER DELUSIONS!



YOU WANT ME TO PRETEND TO BE SPIDER-MAN?!



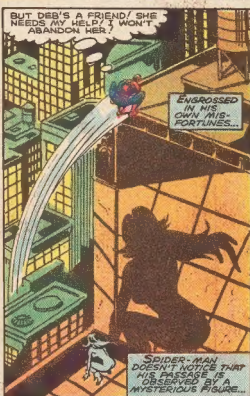
NOT A PRAYER, DOC! THIS ISN'T SOME CRUMMY T.V. SOAP OPERA!



REAL PEOPLE IN REAL LIFE DON'T TREAT SERIOUS PROBLEMS AS IF THEY WERE COMIC BOOK SITUATIONS!

IF DEB'S IN TROUBLE AND NEEDS MY HELP-- I'LL HELP HER!

BUT I'LL DO IT MY WAY!









SOON...

THE COPS  
CAN TAKE  
CARE OF THE  
LEFTOVER OWL  
AND OCTOPUS  
GANG MEMBERS!

I DOUBT THEY'LL  
LEARN ANYTHING  
THOUGH!

THE DOUBLE-Os AREN'T LIKELY TO  
ENTRUST KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR  
OVERALL PLANS TO UNDERLINGS--

--WHICH LEAVES ME  
AS MUCH IN THE  
DARK AS EVER!

A SLENDER  
STRAND OF WEBBING  
CARRIES THE AMAZING  
SPIDER-MAN TO THE  
CAMPUS OF EMPIRE  
STATE UNIVERSITY.

CHANGING AGAIN TO PETER  
PARKER, HE QUICKLY ENTERS  
THE BIOPHYSICS BUILDING, AND  
THEN...

COME TO SEE  
ME ABOUT YOUR  
DEPLORABLE  
LACK OF EXAM  
PREPARATION,  
MR. PARKER?

IT'S A  
LITTLE  
LATE  
FOR THAT!

NO, DR. SLOAN! I'M HERE  
TO ASK YOU WHAT YOU KNOW  
ABOUT DEBRA WHITMAN.

AT THE MOMENT  
I'M MORE WORRIED  
ABOUT HER THAN  
MY FINALS!

AT ONCE, THE OLD MAN'S  
FEATURES SOFTEN...

YES, DEBRA'S BEEN UNDER  
QUITE A STRAIN LATELY. SHE  
WON'T CONFIDE IN ME. I FEEL  
SORRY FOR THE GIRL.

SHE'S  
SUFFERED  
SO MUCH.  
YOU KNOW...

NO, I  
DON'T  
KNOW!  
TELL ME  
ABOUT IT!

DEBRA WAS A SEVERE  
EMOTIONAL PROBLEM,  
MR. PARKER. I KNEW  
ABOUT IT WHEN I HIRED  
HER RIGHT AFTER HER  
RELEASE FROM THE  
HOSPITAL.

WHAT HOSPITAL?  
WHY WAS SHE  
THERE??

I CAN'T BREACH  
THAT CONFIDENCE.  
PERHAPS HER BOY-  
FRIEND--**STIFF**  
**RICKIN**-- CAN  
HELP YOU.

HE AND  
DEBRA WENT  
TO COLLEGE  
TOGETHER.



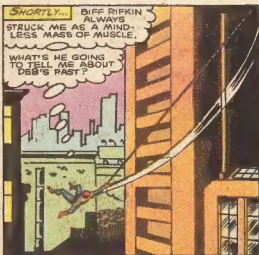


I'LL ASK HIM--  
DR. SLOAN  
THANKS!



I ADMIRE YOUR  
CONCERN MR.  
PARKER.

I ONLY WISH YOU  
CARED AS MUCH ABOUT  
YOUR POOR GRADES. I  
DON'T KNOW HOW YOU CAN  
PASS YOUR EXAMS...



SHORTLY... BIFF RIPKIN  
ALWAYS  
STRUCK ME AS A MIND-  
LESS MASS OF MUSCLE.

WHAT'S HE GOING  
TO TELL ME ABOUT  
DEB'S PAST?



MEANWHILE, AT THAT  
EXACT MOMENT, INSIDE  
THE TOWER HEADQUARTERS  
OF A CERTAIN KINGPIN  
OF CRIME!

WHY SHOULD  
I ALLY  
MYSELF  
WITH YOU?

YOU HAVE  
NO CHOICE,  
KINGPIN.  
BEFORE I'M  
THROUGH--



THERE'S A WAR ON, KINGPIN--WITH  
ALL NEW YORK AS ITS BATTLEFIELD!



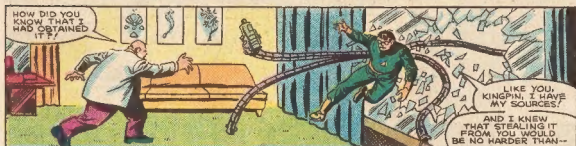
I AM QUITE AWARE OF YOUR CLASH  
WITH THE OWL. I LOOK FORWARD TO  
PICKING UP THE PIECES AFTER YOU HAVE  
DESTROYED ONE ANOTHER.

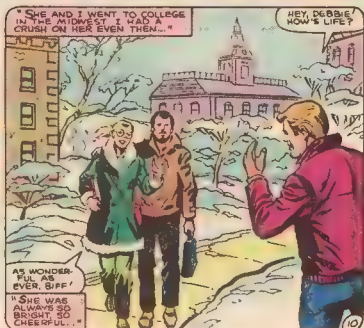
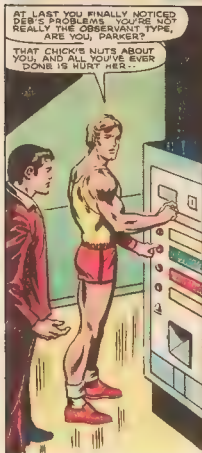


THERE WON'T BE  
ANY MORE PIECES  
WHEN I'M THROUGH!

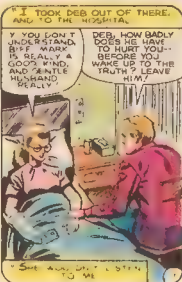
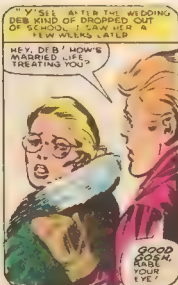
AND YOU WILL  
PERISH WITH  
ALL THE REST!

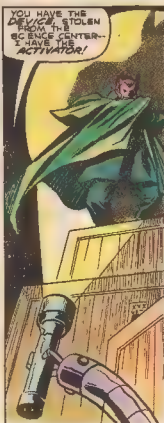
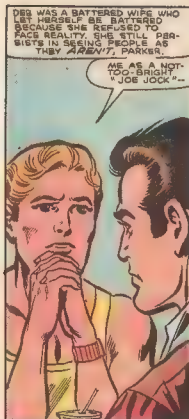
--THE WHOLE  
WORLD WILL BOW BEFORE  
DOCTOR OTTO OCTAVIUS!

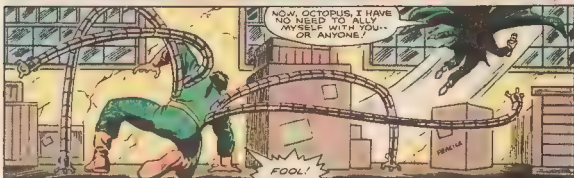
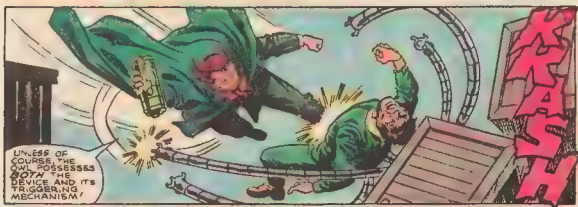




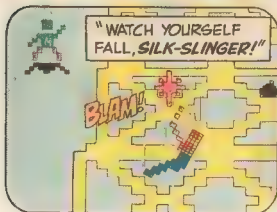
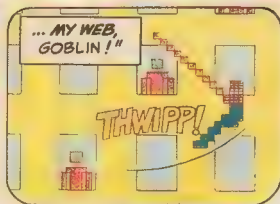
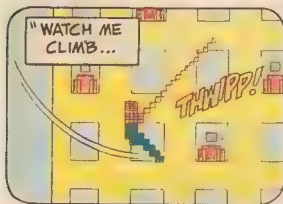
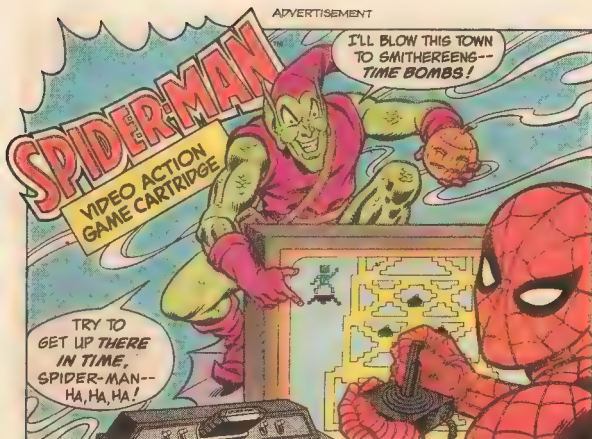


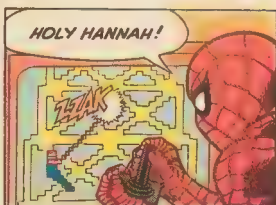
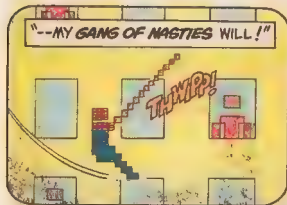












The Goblin's time bombs are ticking away. And his Super Bombs sit fiendishly up on High Voltage Towers. The city is on its knees.

Only Spider-Man's spidey powers can get us out of this! Thwip! He shoots his web and swings up the buildings to reach the bombs.

Thwip! He shoots again, escaping the Goblin on his web-cutting jet glider.

But watch out! Goblin and his warped gang of criminals have more sneaky ways to cut your web and plunge you to the streets below.

Can you get Spider-Man to the bombs in time? Your web fluid is getting lower. And time is ticking away. . . .

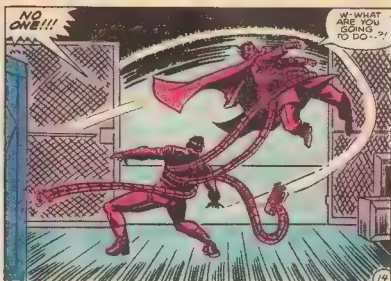
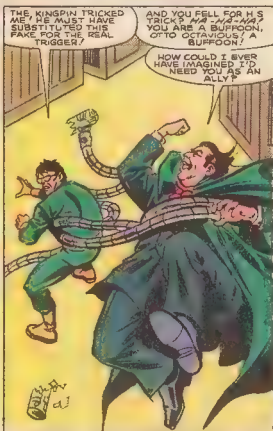
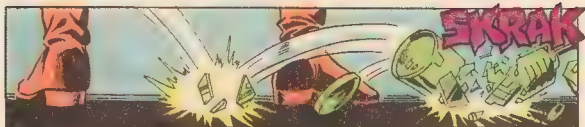


**COMING SOON!**

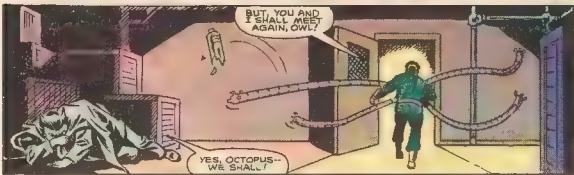
For your Atan Video Computer System™ and Sears Video Arcade™

**PARKER BROTHERS**

Sears Video Arcade™ is a trademark of Sears, Roebuck and Co. and Atan Video Computer System™ are trademarks of Atan, Inc. SPIDER-MAN and THE GREEN GOBLIN: Hit and Copyright © 1982 by the Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadmus Industries Corp. © 1982 Parker Brothers, Quincy, MA 01913



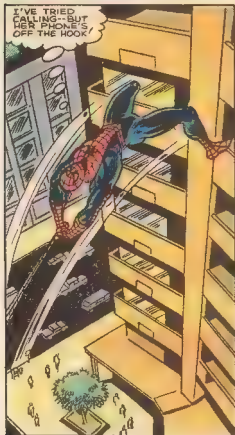




ELSEWHERE...

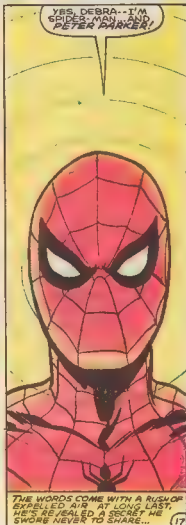
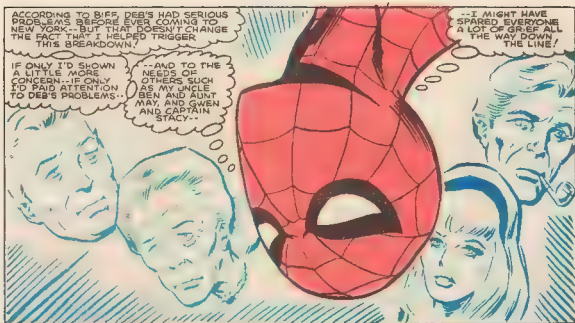


I'VE TRIED  
CALLING--BUT  
HER PHONE'S  
OFF THE HOOK!

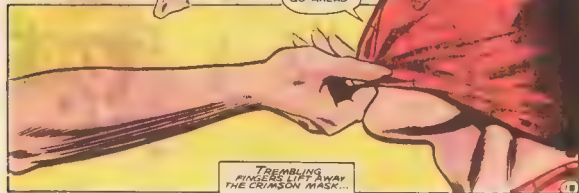


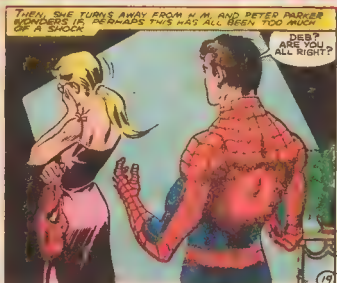
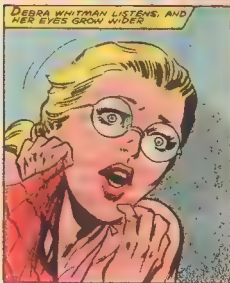
NO WONDER SHE'S LYING  
IN BED--TALKING TO HER  
STUFFED ANIMALS!

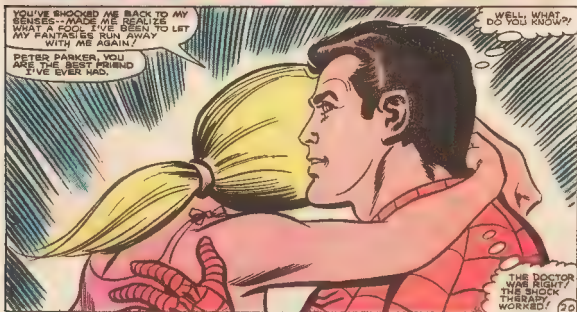
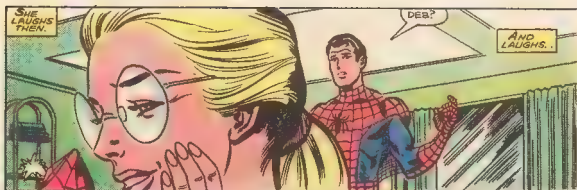












Dear Tom,

The highlights... the highlights, mind you... of SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #68 ("Hell Hath No Fury Like a Robot Scorned!") alone made this issue worth buying. The usual magnificent Mantlo manuscript and McDonnell/Mooney's lavish layouts and fabulous finishes were the icing on the cake! Wow!

Deb Whitman suspects Pete's identity? All right! It wouldn't hurt, y'know, for Peter to have some help, someone to confide in while trying to juggle those four (or is it five?) careers of his. Deb Whitman would be so perfect for this. Don't blow this one, okay?

The other little gem was Spidey's teaming up with the government agents to investigate the Robot-Master's lair. Never mind that they conked out pretty fast. Spider-Man can use the good P.R.

Another excellent issue, all in all. Thanks.  
John D. Lone  
311-68-8198  
Speaker Barracks Box 4925  
Fort Leonard Wood, MO 65473

You're welcome, John!

Dear Tom,

Absolutely, positively fantastic! I've just finished reading SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #68, and I am totally excited about this issue. The major plot, the vengeance of the Robot-Master, smacked of the storytelling professionalism that always characterizes Marvel. The subplots — Aunt May's desire to break away from the senior citizen's home, Pete's troubles at school, and Debra Whitman's relationship with Peter — all functioned as they were supposed to function. They will bring me back next month to find out more!

Hopefully, Peter and Deb will get their acts together. They'd be perfect for each other. Remember, behind every good man there's a good woman! Why not let it be Deb?

Steve Shields  
5 Chatfield Drive E-Z  
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

This very issue should answer that question for you, Steve.

Dear Tom,

I've been reading SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN for the past seven years and I've never read an issue as great as PPTSS #68. Not only was the cover great (reminiscent of Steve Ditko's sensational Spider-art) but the story about Professor Stromm's Robot was absolutely smashing!

Keep up the good work.

Patrick White  
334 Eventide Road  
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

I'll try, Patrick.

Dear Tom,

I absolutely loved PPTSS #68. It was great to see an old Lee/Ditko villain like the Robot-Master. There were several contributing factors to my enjoying this issue so much. I am glad that Pete has quit being a teaching assistant. Maybe now we've seen the last of Debby Whitman, Biff Rifkin, Steve Hopkins, Phillip Chang, Marcy Kane and Dr. Morris Sloan. It was good to see someone guessing at Pete's secret identity even if it was Debby (shudder) Whitman.

I am glad that Aunt May is finally moving out of the Restwell Nursing home and back into her old house. Is she ever going to marry Nathan? At her age she better hurry up.

But the best part of PPTSS #68 was the letters page. In response to Mark Waldman's letter you stated that we haven't seen the last of Harry, Flash, Sha Shan and Liz. From the bottom of my heart I thank you. I thought that we had seen the last of them in PPTSS #63. They are Pete's best and oldest friends and should be treated accordingly. I hope they play a major development in upcoming plots in both Spidey mags.

Glen Goldfin  
2 Brookville Drive  
Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08003

They won't Glen. I am sure they'll visit occasionally, but their own current lives have taken them far afield from Peter.

Dear Tom,

Re: PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #68.

Great, great, great!

I loved this issue, and here's why:

(1) The return of the Robot-Master! I thought he was one of those characters who dies, only to be forgotten. Boy, am I glad I was wrong!

(2) The short, regular remembrance of the old days (pages 2 and 3).

(3) The fight scenes — good, neat, quick fights, with even muscle on both sides.

(4) The team-up with the special-intelligence agents.

(5) Spider-Man's usual spectacular show of his powers (page 6, panel 8; page 7, panels 4, 5 & 6; page 15, panel 3 and especially panel 4).

(6) And, finally, I loved that fight between Pete and Biff Rifkin. I'm glad that Pete knocked him down (even if he could have killed him had he lost control of his spider strength). Biff deserved it. You know what I hated worse than Biff's arrogance? Nothin! And Pete was right when he called Deb a "den-mother."

Oh, and I'm biting my nails waiting for the return of CLOAK & DAGGER!

Jaime Moscoso  
84-28 34th Road  
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

You're not the only one, Jaime.

Dear Tom,

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #68, page 9: That is what makes this one of Marvel's most sensational comics.

Thank you veddy much.

John Brittain  
11 Fleetwood Drive  
Daly City, CA 94015

**NEXT ISSUE:** A special double-sized anniversary special featuring the startling conclusion to the Owl/Octopus War! Plus a major new development in the romance between Spidey and the Black Cat! And more thrills and chills! See you in thirty days!

Tom DeFalco

FROM THE PAGES OF AVENGERS  
COME...

## VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH

IN THEIR OWN  
FOUR-ISSUE  
MARVEL COMICS LIMITED SERIES.  
ON SALE NOW!





# BULLPEN BULLETINS

## A COUPLE OF THINGS WENT WRONG LAST MONTH...

First... I was so late with the Bullpen Bulletins manuscript that a number of Marvel Comics had to be printed and shipped without it! An ad was inserted in its place at the printer's.

Second, when the Bullpen Page finally got done, it was so late that I couldn't take the time to check it over properly before it went out. As a result, a photo of the Marvel folks in attendance at the wedding of star writer Roger Stern and lovely Carmela Merlo was printed half the size I'd intended, and therefore looked a lot like mud.

## HERE'S WHY!

Last month I was on the road for almost three weeks, attending the spectacular San Diego Convention in sunny southern California, and the incredible Chicago Con in the wonderful Windy City. I took my briefcase and a large portfolio, both full of work, along with me... but while I was in San Diego - I admit it - I succumbed to temptation. I spent two whole days plus a stolen afternoon or three relaxing. I played racquetball and lifted weights at the hotel's health spa, I went swimming in the hotel pool, jogging along the scenic waterfront, body surfing at the beach, and partying far into the night. I was joined in these thoroughly irresponsible activities by some of my favorite people - Joe Rubinstein, Jim Starlin and his wife Dana Graziunas, Bill Sienkiewicz, John Byrne and his wife Andrea, Carl Potts and Christie Schaele. It was wonderful - the nearest thing I've had to a vacation in about seven years.

The price for those couple of days off was high. The Bullpen Bulletins did not appear in a number of Marvel titles, and where it did, the photo it carried was naught but a blur. My fault. All my fault.

## WHAT'S BEING DONE...

Well, I've already arranged for several of your favorite Marvel personalities to do guest columns which will appear on this page every once in a while when I think you folks out there need a change of pace - or when I'm in a jam! Also, I'm going to print another picture of Roger and Carmela when I run his guest column. Also, they made me give back my salary for last month...

## OKAY, ON WITH NEW BUSINESS!

Did anyone not see the nifty, sixteen-page Marvel Comics Guide to Comic Collecting which was included in every single copy of *The Amazing Spider-Man* #234? For the response we received it's the most popular bonus feature ever offered in a comic book! If you somehow missed it, head for (or write to) the comics specialty shop nearest you. Many of them ordered a bunch of extra copies of *Spider-Man* #234 and of the Guide by itself, and they may still have a few left. If you don't know of any comics specialty shops near you, check the ads in this comic! Many shops and distributors advertise in Marvel publications. Or, write to me. I'll get back

to you with a list of shops in your general area. Speaking of such shops, I'd like to thank the folks from SUNSHINE COMICS, located at 6370 BIRD ROAD, SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA 33155 for their help and cooperation, without which we couldn't have published the Collector's Guide. They originated the guide, and did hundreds of thousands of collectors across the country a service by allowing us to publish and widely distribute it. Thanks, folks!

## MARVEL TROUNCES WARREN!

Thought you'd like to know that on August 3, 1982 the Bullpen Bombers trashed the Warren Warriors on the softball field by a score of 20-1. Our left-fielder and comest Robbie Carosiella led the attack with five hits in six at bats, including two homers.

Here's the line-up:

RF - Archie Goodwin, Editorial Director of EPIC - 4 for 6; LF - Robbie Carosiella, Photostat Operator - 5 for 6; SS - Harry Eisenstein, Mail Clerk - 0 for 5 (but brilliant in the field); 1B - Jim Shooter, Editor-in-Chief - 2 for 5; CF - Ken Fedunewicz, Special Projects Production - 2 for 5; 3B - Hal Yornbo, Merchandising Development - 4 for 5; P - John Morelli, Letterer/Correctionist - 4 for 5; 2B - Lance Tooka, Assistant Editor - 4 for 5; SC - Ken Lopez, Production Assistant - 2 for 5.

We had 'em all the way!

## I HAVE TO MENTION...

...that in San Diego, at their annual awards banquet, our own Archie Goodwin, Editorial Director of EPIC Illustrated Magazine, was honored with the prestigious Inkpot Award, acknowledging his contribution to the comics industry. If you want to see one reason why, buy or borrow a copy of EPIC. It'll convince you. A bunch of other Marvel folks have received Inkpots as well over the years. I'll run a complete list here sometime soon.

## A WEEK LATER...

...in Chicago, at the Con, disaster nearly struck! You see Spider-Man was there, live and in person to give away free copies of the latest issues of *The Amazing Spider-Man* to the fans in attendance. The trouble was the shipment of comics never arrived! Fortunately, yours truly happened to bump into old Webhead in his hour of need, and I just happened to be carrying a hundred or so coupons, each good for a free subscription to any Marvel title. I promptly turned the coupons over to our hero, who found them an extremely effective substitute for his missing freebie comics. No problem. Now he owes me one. Just goes to show you, the Boy Scouts are right. Always be prepared.

## IT'S ABOUT TIME...

...that I gave Eliot Brown some credit. He's the guy who typesets this thing (and almost every other thing) every month... and he does a damn good job, and we're grateful. But, typesetting

isn't his only trick. He's also our resident photographer. He took the stunning photo which graced the cover of *Dazzler* #21 - as well as most of the other photos that have appeared in Marvel Comics in recent years. If a photo isn't credited otherwise, chances are it's Eliot's work. I should mention, too, that Eliot is our resident technical expert. If something's broken, he can fix it - if something's complicated, he can explain it - if you've got a problem, he can solve it. He draws - and he's especially good at technical drawing, like blueprints, diagrams, cutaways, mechanical drawing - he inks, he colors, he designs, he does boardwork, and other stuff, too, that I can't think of. Best of all, he's a real trouper who's stayed here at the office all night many times helping desperate artists and editors make deadlines. He's probably blushing now, as he typesets this - he's such a humble guy!

*Well, Jim, I just don't know what to say, but I think that I'd like to take this singular opportunity to thank all the little people whose countless I've ridden; when I think of Marvel Comics, the image of selfless camaraderie almost, almost brings a tear to my eye, the hours of bonhomie, shoulder to shoulder... I can't go on - well, you I could, but Jim is sliding his forefinger across his throat. Hmm. Thanks, Jim.* *Just R. Brown*

But I couldn't pass this opportunity to let him know he's appreciated! Hooray, Eliot!

## CONGRATULATIONS...

...are in order for my former secretary Frank Sienkiewicz. Being my secretary has got to be the toughest job in the place (bed, maybe, with the Traffic Manager job, which Virginia Romita handles so well). It involves representing Marvel to the world and the freelancers, handling an enormous workload including tons of memos, letters and complicated projects, all of them urgent and important, supervising three or more office assistants and putting up with me. Frank took it all in stride - so well, in fact, that she received an impressive promotion. She's now Administrative Manager of International Licensing. Whew! I feel like I should salute even when I just write that title! I think what it means is, that she's in charge of Europe... or maybe just NATO.

Congratulations, Frank!

## MY NEW SECRETARY...

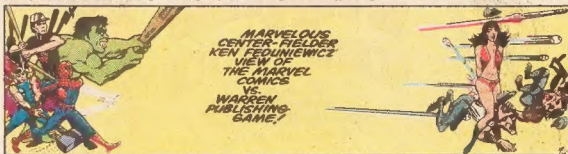
Pardon me, my new Administrative Assistant - the job grew a lot while Frank had it, because she was always eagerly shouldering more responsibility, so we had to change the title - is Lea Sapp. Lea is doing a great job and is already making me forget about ol' whatersname. Heh, heh. Just kidding, Frank.

## GOTTA GO!

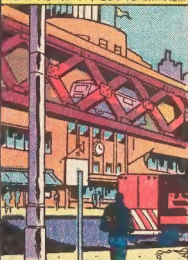
I think I see some NATO bombers headed this way!

Bye!

*Jim*



THE NEXT DAY AT NEW YORK'S  
PORT AUTHORITY BUS TERMINAL...



GOODBYE, PETER.  
THANK YOU FOR  
EVERYTHING.

ARE YOU SURE THAT RETURNING  
TO THE MIDWEST--IS THE RIGHT  
WAY TO DEAL WITH YOUR FUTURE,  
DEB?



BEFORE I CAN DEAL WITH THE FUTURE,  
I'VE FIRST GOT TO RESOLVE MY PAST.  
I'M GOING TO DIVORCE MY HUSBAND--

--AND TRY TO  
START OVER.

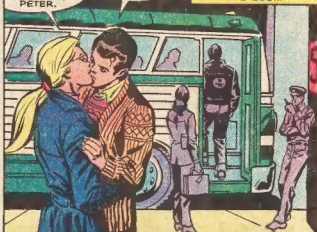


I KNOW  
A CERTAIN **BIFF**  
**RIFKIN** WHO'LL BE  
GLAD TO HEAR THAT!

I'LL KEEP IN  
TOUCH WITH  
BIFF... AND  
WITH YOU,  
PETER.

DO THAT,  
LADY--AND  
GOOD LUCK!

WITHOUT A BACK-  
WARD GLANCE **DEBRA**  
**WHITMAN** BOARDS  
THE BUS...



THEN, AS IT DEPARTS,  
PETER PARKER HAS A  
DISCONCERTING THOUGHT...

HEY! WHAT IF DEB  
EVER WONDERED HOW  
PETER PARKER CLIMBED  
UP ONTO HER TERRACE?/?



LATER...

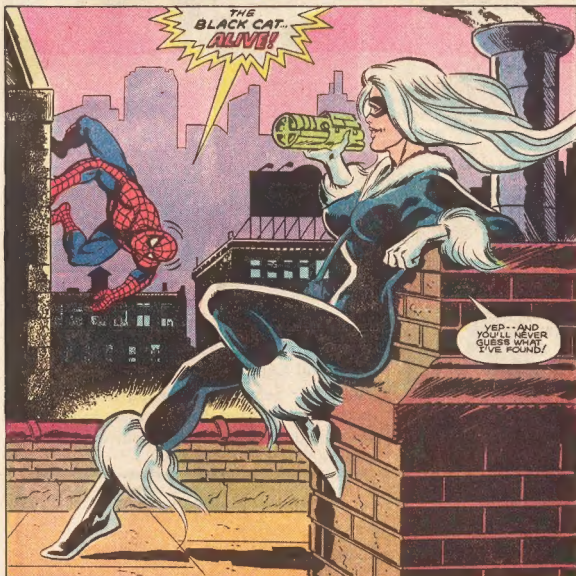


I ALMOST  
CAN'T  
BELIEVE DEB  
WHITMAN'S  
REALLY  
GONE OUT OF  
MY LIFE. I  
HOPE SHE FINDS  
WHAT SHE'S  
SEARCHING FOR!

WHOW! WHAT A DAY! I'VE GOT  
TO GET HOME AND START  
STUDYING FOR MY FINALS  
NOW!



CAN'T LET  
ANYTHING  
ELSE  
DISTRACT  
ME!



NEXT  
ISSUE:

THE WORDS  
IN LATIN  
MEAN "WILD  
BEASTS"!  
BE HERE FOR...

**FERAE  
NATURAE!**

TWICE THE  
ACTION!  
TWICE THE  
EXCITEMENT!  
TWICE THE  
THRILLS!  
(AND THREE  
THE PAGES!)  
JOIN US!